

**CITY OF ROCHESTER
COMMITTEE ON URBAN DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT
2122 CAMPUS DR SE
ROCHESTER, MN 55904**

The Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) met at 11:30AM on Thursday, November 20, 2008 in Room 320 City Hall, Rochester, MN.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Judisch – Chair, Dick Abraham, Nora Dooley, Gail Eadie, Mark Engel, Sandi Goslee, Kathryn Moe, Roger Nelson, Dave Petersen, Terry Spaeth, Jean Weathers-Lowin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Jasmin, John Klopp, Marcia Marcoux, Lindsey Meek, Zach Thaler, Pauline Walle

OTHERS PRESENT: Joel Dunnette, John Harford, Stephan Lewis, Jacob Ryg

The meeting began at 11:30.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the October minutes, correcting them to note that Ms. Moe was not present; Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Boulevard Tree Ordinance

Mr. Harford gave a recap of the presentation of the boulevard tree ordinance to the City Park Board. He said that a number of good questions were raised. He also said that Jeff Pieters from the Post Bulletin contacted him and may print an article on the subject. Staffing needs and budget items were of particular interest. The Park Board wants Mr. Harford and Mr. Ryg to present the final version of the ordinance proposal; Ms. Dooley said it needs to get on their agenda as an action item.

Mr. Engle asked if there is money in the Park budget to plant trees on public property: what's good for the goose is good for the gander. Ms. Dooley said there is \$25,000 in the Capital Improvements Plan allocated for that use. Mr. Ryg said money for trees is also allocated as part of parks and street projects.

The group agreed to send a letter of support for this proposal.

Other

Ms. Moe asked about the date for the CUDE Awards Breakfast; Ms. Goslee stated she was waiting to hear back from the Art Center.

Mr. Judisch asked what was going on with the electronic sign ordinance. Mr. Harford said the version recommended by the City Planning and Zoning Commission blew up at the City Council. He is in the process of working out some possible amendments, particularly with regard to existing business signs. He said the local billboard industry is on board with the staff's recommendations and that Public Works is looking into potential conflicts with traffic signals.

NEW BUSINESS

Bird/Window Mortality in Downtown Rochester – Joel Dunnette, Audubon Society

Mr. Dunnette gave a PowerPoint presentation on some local research being done on bird mortality due to collisions with urban windows. He asked CUDE to advocate for bird-friendly development guidelines as are being adopted by

other cities across North America (Chicago, New York, Toronto, etc.). Mr. Judisch asked if “night-sky” fixtures help reduce this mortality; Mr. Dunnette stated that research is being done on that topic.

Mr. Judisch asked that as more research is done, its findings be passed along to CUDE. A source page will also be provided to the group.

Adjourn – 1:00 PM

Next meeting will be December 18th, 11:30AM.